

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
HARRISBURG

JAPANESE BEETLE CONTROL

The control of the Japanese beetle on trees is best accomplished by the use of poison sprays. For shade trees we recommend the use of the so-called coated arsenate of lead, which is now found on the market. This material is used at the rate of eight pounds to 100 gallons of water. Some manufacturers are making a little different recommendations than this, and it is suggested that the manufacturer's recommendation be followed. This spray must be timely; it should begin about the time that the first beetles appear, which in most years is from the 15th to 20th of June. In all cases the spraying must be thorough, entirely coating the foliage of the trees to be protected. Spraying should be finished by the end of the first week in July.

The matter of getting a thorough application is one which cannot be over-emphasized. In many instances this calls for special spray equipment. That is, the operator should be equipped with a rig which is capable of producing pressure sufficient to send the spray to the tops of the highest trees. Usually such equipment works at about 600 pounds pressure.

FOR THE PROTECTION OF GRAPE VINES, FRUIT TREES (EXCEPT PEACHES), AND VEGETABLES, ordinary arsenate of lead, wheat flour and water should be used. The proportion is six pounds of powdered arsenate of lead, and four pounds of wheat flour to 100 gallons of water. In small amounts this would be five ounces of arsenate of lead, three ounces of wheat flour, and five gallons of water. For peach trees use three pounds of powdered arsenate of lead, two and one-half pounds of flour, ten pounds of hydrated lime and 100 gallons of water. In applying this spray to peach trees remember that it is not advisable to apply it later than four to six weeks before the fruit ripens. In the spraying of fruit trees remember that to give complete protection all of the foliage must be covered.

CONTACT SPRAYS ON JAPANESE BEETLE. When a large number of beetles occur on rare or extremely valuable plants, these may be killed off at once by thoroughly spraying the plants with a pyrethrum soap emulsion. This emulsion is now found on the market under various trade names, such as "Pyrethol," "Agripax," "Whiz Japanese Beetle Spray," "Green Tree," etc. The dilution of this material is made according to the instructions on the container.

The use of traps for catching Japanese Beetles is still in the experimental stage and not a great deal of faith should be placed in them at present as a means of control.

